

November 23, 1981

Inspection Memo to File:

RE: E-4, I-5, 8-A
Gilsonite Mines
Ziegler Chemical and
Mineral Corporation
ACT/047/013
Uintah County, Utah

On September 30, 1981, Joe Helfrich, Gilbert Hunt and Sandy Pruitt toured the mines for the Little Emma, Little Bonanza and Independent gilsonite veins located near Bonanza, Utah, with Norman Haslam of Ziegler. Gilsonite occurs in vertical veins that are mined manually underground with air drills. Each mine access facility consists of a vertical shaft and drig, hoist house and a small material and timber storage area. No waste rock is generated in mining as only gilsonite is removed. Water has been encountered in some mines, on the Little Bonanza vein in particular, and is discharged to the surface. An access facility along the Little Emma vein was reclaimed two years ago. The shaft has been blocked, the drig and other facilities were removed and the area graded and seeded. Revegetation success was minimal.

The mines are currently producing approximately 25-50 tons of gilsonite per day. The company is planning on opening the Cottonwood vein near Green River. The Cowboy, Chipeta and Weaver veins are also mined by Ziegler Chemical.

Ziegler had initially filed for a DOE for the Little Emma, Little Bonanza and Independent veins separately. A revised mining plan, and MRP-2 form for all three veins was submitted on May 24, 1979. The plan was reviewed but inadequacies never addressed by the Division. No MR-1 form has been submitted to replace the DOE. No surety estimate or reclamation contract has been developed and a MR-8 form is filed only for the Weaver vein. An annual report has never been submitted. Although evidence of mine water discharge was documented in a March 19, 1979, inspection memo, a NPDES permit has not been filed for. Although Mr. Haslam is not responsible for permitting, he can be contacted by mail at the mine office: Norman Haslam, Ziegler Chemical and Mineral Corporation, Star Route, Vernal, Utah.

SANDY PRUITT 
RECLAMATION OFFICER

SP/btb

Statistics:

Vehicle: #EX 70237--approximately 780 miles (broken odometer)
Per Diem: 3 persons X 3 days, 7 hours @ \$37.50/day = \$323.79
Grant: A & E